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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2007/08	$40,379,600
Expenditure for 2007/08	$40,201,500
Unencumbered balance for 2007/08	$178,100
Appropriation for 2008/09	$45,769,000
Projected expenditure for 2008/09[a]	$45,498,900
Estimated unencumbered balance for 2008/09[a]	$270,100
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2009/10	$68,284,300
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2009/10	see para. 57 below

[a] Estimate as at 3 March 2009.

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I. Introduction

1. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in the paragraphs below would entail a reduction in the proposed budget of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy (UNLB) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (see para. 57 below).

2. The general report of the Advisory Committee on the administrative and budgetary aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/63/746) contains its views and recommendations on a number of cross-cutting issues, as well as its comments on the report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/63/5 (Vol. II)).

3. In the present report, the Advisory Committee deals with resources and other items that relate specifically to UNLB. In considering the proposals of the Secretary-General for UNLB for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, the Committee has taken into account the recommendations of the Board of Auditors related to UNLB and made specific comments thereon, where relevant, in the paragraphs below. **The Committee stresses the importance of full and expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (see also para. 55 below).**

4. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of UNLB are listed at the end of the present report.

II. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/277, approved an amount of $40,379,600 gross ($37,687,200 net) for the maintenance of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. Expenditure for the period totalled $40,201,500 gross ($37,198,600 net).

6. The unencumbered balance of $178,100 gross ($488,600 net) for the period 2007/08 represents in gross terms 0.4 per cent of the appropriation and reflects underexpenditures of $1,559,100 under operational costs attributable primarily to the postponement of the satellite farm construction project due to delays in the scope of work and procurement process, non-acquisition of generators, lower than planned requirements for utilities and lower requirements for spare parts for ground transportation and communications owing to the availability of sufficient spare part inventory.

7. The underexpenditures under operational costs were offset in part by additional requirements of $1,381,000 for civilian personnel which are attributable primarily to the following:

(a) Losses owing to exchange rate fluctuation between the United States dollar and the euro;

(b) Increases in salary for international staff due to a 1.5 per cent increase in the post adjustment multiplier and an increase in the daily subsistence allowance element of the assignment grant;

(c) Increases in salary for international positions funded under general temporary assistance.

8. The Secretary-General indicates in his report (A/63/626, para. 15) that, during the reporting period, UNLB provided logistical and administrative services to peacekeeping missions through several functional areas which included logistics services, communications and information technology services, the tenant units and UNLB support services. The Committee notes that, in addition to the two existing tenant units at UNLB (the Training Delivery Cell and the Regional Aviation Safety Office), the following additional units were established during the period: (a) the Strategic Air Operations Centre, which was established to provide strategic oversight of aircraft of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations operating inter-mission flights and became operational in May 2008; (b) the Engineering Design Unit, which was established to standardize designs and drafts of accommodation and other engineering work required by the missions and became operational in April 2008; and (c) the Geographical Information System Centre, which was established to support rapid mission start-ups and improve field mission operational readiness by providing a secure repository of global geo-spatial information and training to missions.

9. The Secretary-General indicates that the actual performance of UNLB is assessed against the planned results-based framework set out in the 2007/08 budget. **However, in the Advisory Committee's view, the performance report demonstrates that a number of indicators of achievement were not accomplished during the reporting period. Moreover, the performance report does not consistently provide adequate explanation for significant variances between planned targets and actual outputs and achievements.**

10. For example, the performance report indicates that while UNLB had planned to receive and inspect strategic deployment stock items valued at approximately $141.5 million, it actually received and inspected strategic deployment stock items valued at $46.3 million and dispatched $56.9 million of such items to peacekeeping and Special Political Missions during the performance period. Furthermore, the report indicates that UNLB installed CarLogs and radios in 126 strategic deployment stock vehicles although the planned target was 500 vehicles. It also planned to store, refurbish and maintain 40 vehicles and 10 generators in the reserve stocks from liquidating missions, however, the actual output was 4 vehicles and 3 generators.

11. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that achievement of the objectives of UNLB is not related solely to its capacity but depends on the requirements of the missions and the Department of Field Support. Therefore, the non-achievement of the planned targets for receiving, inspecting and dispatching strategic deployment stock items valued at $141.5 million was due to the fact that only $46.3 million worth of such items were received and only $56.9 million worth of such items were requested to be dispatched. Similarly, the planned target of installation of CarLogs and radios in 500 strategic deployment stock vehicles was not achieved because only 126 vehicles were received. Therefore, with regard to these two examples, UNLB achieved, according to the Secretariat, all that it was asked to do, although the planned targets were not met. The performance report does provide an explanation for the lower number of vehicles refurbished and stored at the Base as more vehicles were shipped directly to other missions without first

being returned to UNLB for refurbishment. That being said, the Committee points out that no information is provided on the resources which should have been released as a result of reduced demand for services provided by UNLB. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination between the missions, the Department of Field Support and UNLB. The Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General pursue improvements in business processes in order to achieve planned targets.**

12. The Advisory Committee notes that UNLB has not achieved the planned target for shipment processing times of strategic deployment stock items. The Committee recalls that it had previously commented on this fact (see A/62/781/Add.12, para. 7). UNLB expressed concern that, while it was being held accountable to the timeline for the processing and shipping of strategic deployment stock items, it had to rely on other partners to meet this timeline. UNLB stated that it continued to plan and coordinate with all necessary parties to ensure that shipments were dispatched in the shortest time possible (see A/63/824, sect. V). **The Committee also draws attention to the recommendation of the Board of Auditors that delays in the deployment and replenishment of strategic deployment stocks should be clearly ascertained and that the current procedures for the replenishment of the stocks need to be reviewed (see A/63/5 (Vol. II), para. 255). The Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Board of Auditors and encourages UNLB to make every effort with its partners to ensure timely shipment of required strategic deployment stock items.**

13. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the logical framework of UNLB requires further development and improvement. Taking into account that UNLB provides a number of functions related to support, not just to peacekeeping operations but also to other field missions, expected accomplishment 1.1 (see A/63/824, sect. I.F) might be reformulated to read "Increased efficiency and effectiveness of support provided by the Base to peacekeeping operations and other field missions". The Committee is also of the view that indicators of achievement should reflect more fully the scope of functions and services provided by the Base.**

14. The Secretary-General indicates that 530 reference checks were completed during the reporting period, far less than the planned output of checking the references of 150 candidates per day (A/63/626, para. 15). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the planned output had been established at the time of the pilot project's conception and was based on the assumption that references would be checked with employers and educational institutions through electronic means. However, that had not proven to be a viable means for receiving information and clearing candidates rapidly. **The Committee is of the view that the underperformance of the Reference Checking Unit pilot project indicates deficient planning.** The Committee notes the reference to a review of the pilot project's operations in paragraph 22 and annex II of the proposed budget (A/63/824). **However, in the Committee's view, the information provided in the proposed budget is not sufficient to support the establishment of a Reference Checking Unit in UNLB. It is also not clear why one function in support of field personnel should be placed outside of United Nations Headquarters. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the pilot**

project, including a cost/benefit analysis, and submit the results of the assessment to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session.

15. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report (A/63/626) on individual objects of expenditure can be found in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 in the paragraphs below.

III. Information on performance for the current period

16. The Advisory Committee was provided with expenditure data for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 as at 31 March 2009 (see annex I to the present report). Current expenditure for the period as at 31 March 2009 amounted to $34,425,300 against an apportionment of $45,769,000 gross. For the entire financial period, current and projected expenditures amount to $45,498,900, leaving a projected unencumbered balance of $270,100.

17. The Committee was informed that, as at 31 March 2009, the incumbency for UNLB was as follows:

Category of personnel	*Authorized*	*Encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
International staff	52	47	9.6
National staff	183	179	2.2

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

A. Objective and planned results

18. As indicated in the budget document (see A/63/824, paras. 4 and 6), during the budget period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, the Base will deliver key outputs in a number of its functional areas, such as UNLB support services; logistics support services; communication and information technology services; the secondary active telecommunications facility at Site B in Valencia, Spain; the Security Office; and the Tenant Units (Regional Aviation and Safety Office, Strategic Air Operations Centre, Integrated Training Service, Geographic Information System Centre, Engineering Standardization and Design Unit, Reference Checking Unit, Surface Transport Technical Support Unit and the Standing Police Capacity).

19. The Advisory Committee recalls its earlier observation that there was a need for a longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB that would address, inter alia, the basis for placing certain functions at the Base (see A/61/852/Add.14, para. 17). The Committee also expressed its view that decisions on the establishment of logistics functions should be based on an analysis that takes into account the projected associated costs and overheads, weighed against potential benefits, including savings and productivity and other qualitative gains. The General Assembly, in paragraph 14 of its resolution 61/277, requested the Secretary-General,

in the context of the budget proposal for 2009/10, to report on the longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB, addressing, inter alia, the basis for placing certain functions at the Base, taking into account the support provided by the host country. The Secretary-General has included information on the proposed longer-term role and future development of the Base in annex II to the budget document (A/63/824).

20. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed budget for UNLB is based on the longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB and provides for expanded activities of the Base during the financial period 2009/10. According to the Secretary-General, the role of the Base is expected to expand significantly from that of the provision of logistics and support during mission start-up, liquidation and extended information and communications technology support, to one of expanded services and continuous support to missions throughout their life-cycles. This enhanced support would include, in addition to existing operations: (a) extending current administrative and logistics support beyond mission start-up through the deployment missions; (b) enhancing Headquarters support functions through the establishment of new Tenant Units, such as the Standing Police Capacity and the Surface Transport Technical Support Unit; (c) strengthening existing functions within the Base, including enhanced conference and training facilities; (d) establishing a secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia to support peacekeeping operations; and (e) extending the Base's support to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Secretary-General also proposes that for the 2009/10 period, the Reference Checking Unit be established as a Tenant Unit.

21. Paragraphs 12 to 25 of the budget document provide details for existing operations of UNLB and enhanced support proposed for the Base. In this context, the Secretary-General proposes the restructuring of the Communications and Information Technology Services, which would provide for the establishment of an Operations Section, and the reorganization of the Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit into three separate units: the Campus Support Unit, the Technology Infrastructure Unit and the Asset Management Unit. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/262, which approved the establishment of Site B in Valencia, a secondary active telecommunications facility in support of peacekeeping activities, the Secretary-General indicates that the first phase of construction is expected to be completed during the 2009/10 budget period, with the Base providing administrative support for the facility.

22. The Secretary-General indicates that the new Surface Transport Technical Support Unit will assume the following functions: to implement a programme to enable field mission staff to maintain and upgrade their technical and management skills in the area of surface transport logistics; to standardize the methodologies currently used in monitoring manufacturers' warranty management issues and factory recalls; and to develop a methodology to monitor and implement the codification of expendable and non-expendable inventory.

23. With regard to the Standing Police Capacity which was established following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 60/1 on 16 September 2005, a comprehensive report on the initial activities of the Standing Police Capacity was prepared by a panel of experts, including representatives of Member States, and submitted to the General Assembly in December 2008 (see A/63/630). The report

addressed issues relevant to the future of the Standing Police Capacity, including its core functions, required strength, expertise needs and the relocation of its base of operations to UNLB to reflect its field focus and maximize operational effectiveness and efficiency. The proposed budget for the period 2009/10 provides for the redeployment of the existing 27 Standing Police Capacity posts, which were previously funded through the support account for peacekeeping operations, to the Base from July 2009, and a proposed increase in the standing police personnel by an additional 49 posts. In its recent report on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee provided its view on the relocation of the Standing Police Capacity to UNLB (see A/63/841, para. 81).

24. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the report on the proposed longer-term role and future development of UNLB, as contained in annex II to document A/63/824, does not provide a thorough review of the functions of the Base, nor does it provide a cost/benefit analysis to clearly demonstrate to the General Assembly the advantages of placing certain functions at the Base.** The Committee was informed during its hearings that a global support strategy for United Nations peacekeeping operations was being prepared by the Secretariat and would be presented to the General Assembly within one year. The Committee was informed that the strategy would, inter alia, outline the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Field Support, UNLB, the information facility at Valencia and the Entebbe logistics hub, in supporting United Nations field missions. **The Committee trusts that the strategy will demonstrate the role of the Base as a tool that is available not only for the Department of Field Support but also Secretariat-wide.**

25. **The Committee notes from paragraph 173 of the proposed budget (A/63/824) that the Secretary-General has not placed annex II before the General Assembly for its approval. The Committee is of the opinion that the proposals related to the longer-term role and future development of the Logistics Base should be integrated in the overall global strategy to be presented to the General Assembly (see para. 24 above).**

26. **Although recognizing that the Base is currently carrying out functions that do not strictly fall into the category of logistics, including communications, training, air support and security, the Advisory Committee recommends that the name of the Base remain unchanged in light of the Secretary-General's intention to submit a global support strategy of United Nations peacekeeping operations (see A/63/824, para. 11).**

B. Resource requirements

27. The proposed budget for UNLB for the period 2009/10 amounts to $68,284,300 gross ($63,190,400 net), representing an increase of $22,515,300, or 49.2 per cent, in gross terms over the amount of $45,769,000 apportioned for the period 2008/09. The budget provides for a total of 151 international and 256 national posts, as well as 12 temporary positions funded under general temporary assistance.

1. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved 2008/09*	*Proposed 2009/10*	*Variance*
International staff	52	151	99
National staff	183	256	73
Temporary positions	29	12	(17)

28. The estimated requirements for civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 amount to $36,103,200, reflecting an increase of $13,389,400, or 58.9 per cent, in comparison with the apportionment for 2008/09. The increased requirements are attributable mainly to salaries and related costs for 99 additional international posts (1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 36 P-4, 43 P-3, 3 P-2 and 9 Field Service) and 73 additional national General Service posts. The increased requirements are offset in part by a net reduction of 17 positions funded under general temporary assistance.

29. As indicated in paragraph 153 of the budget document (A/63/824), the estimated requirements for civilian personnel reflect the application of a 15 per cent vacancy rate for international staff, 10 per cent for national General Service staff and 5 per cent for national staff positions funded under general temporary assistance.

Recommendations on posts/positions

30. A summary of the staffing changes for UNLB for the period 2009/10, including redeployments and conversions, is contained in annex II to the present report. The changes in the established staffing structure of the Base are indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNLB for 2009/10 (A/63/824) under the various components of the budget proposal. The report also contains a proposal for the conversion of 20 general temporary assistance positions and 34 contractual positions to national General Service posts. The presentation of the changes in the staffing table was not clear and therefore complicated the analysis of the proposed staffing requirements. **The Advisory Committee recommends that efforts be made in future budget submissions to streamline the presentation on staffing requirements.**

31. With regard to the proposed conversion of 34 contractual positions to national General Service posts, the Committee recalls that the proposed budget for the period 2008/09 contained a proposal for the conversion of nine contractual positions. The proposal was put forward because under legislation applicable in Italy, temporary contracts cannot be for longer than three years and, according to the Secretariat, the option of hiring temporary agency workers under open-ended staff leasing contracts, allowing for contractors to be employed for longer periods of time, was no longer possible. The Advisory Committee had recommended that UNLB explore the possibility of hiring services of individuals through contracts with service providers and not through an agency when continuous services were required (see A/62/781/Add.12, para. 27). As indicated in the report (A/63/824, sect. V.A), in response to the Committee's recommendation, UNLB reviewed the roles of the remaining 40 Logistics Support Services temporary personnel, which resulted in the proposed conversion of 34 positions. **The Committee points out, however, that the Base does not indicate whether it explored alternative options employed by**

other United Nations missions and offices in Europe. The Committee recommends that the Base continue to explore other options, including through negotiations with the host Government, to overcome the restrictions placed on the employment of independent contractors on temporary contracts. In the meantime, the Committee recommends against the proposed conversion of the 34 contractual positions.

32. **With regard to other staffing issues, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed redeployment of posts between various sections of the Base, with the exception of the proposed redeployments from the Personnel Section to the Reference Checking Unit. In considering the requests for reclassification of existing posts and the establishment of new posts, the Committee based its recommendations on its view that the future role of the Base should be addressed in the Secretary-General's overall global support strategy (see para. 24 above).**

Office of the Director, United Nations Logistics Base

33. The proposed staffing establishment of the Office of the Director provides for the reclassification of the D-1 post of Chief Administrative Officer of UNLB to the D-2 level, the establishment of a D-1 post of Deputy Director and a national General Service post and two redeployments (see A/63/824, paras. 36 to 42). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed reclassification of the D-1 post of Chief Administrative Officer to Director of the United Nations Logistics Base at the D-2 level. In so doing, the Committee emphasizes the importance of appointing a highly qualified manager with the prerequisite skills to oversee the operations of the Base. The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of the D-1 post of Deputy Director and a national General Service post.**

Personnel Section

34. The proposed staffing for the Personnel Section provides for the conversion to posts of one P-3 and one national General Service position currently funded under general temporary assistance and the establishment of two national general temporary assistance positions (see A/63/824, paras. 48-52). As indicated in the budget document, there is a requirement to strengthen the travel function within the Section to effectively coordinate and manage the administration of travel-related activities including the processing of travel authorizations, the request for and evaluation of bids, process updates for United Nations laissez-passers and coordination with liaison offices for visas. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the existing P-3 and the national General Service positions continue to be funded under general temporary assistance. The Committee recommends against the establishment of the two new general temporary assistance positions.**

Procurement Section

35. The proposed staffing establishment of the Procurement Section provides for the establishment of a Procurement Officer (P-3) post and a Procurement Assistant (national General Service) post (see A/63/824, paras. 53-56). The Secretary-General reports that the Procurement Section has experienced an increase in its workload,

largely resulting from the growth in the activities of the Communications and Information Technology Service in providing support to peacekeeping missions; further growth in workload is also anticipated in connection with the establishment of Site B, Valencia. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of one P-3 post and one national General Service post.**

Facilities Management Section

36. The proposed staffing for the Facilities Management Section provides for the establishment of three national General Service posts and one national General Service general temporary assistance position (see A/63/824, paras. 57-65). The Secretary-General indicates that one national General Service post and one national General Service general temporary assistance position would be required in connection with the expected expansion of the Base and the arrival of the new Tenant Units. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the three national General Service posts and one national General Service general temporary assistance position.**

Property Management Section

37. The staffing proposal for the Property Management Section provides for the establishment of a P-2 post of Archivist and three national General Service posts in connection with the proposed establishment of an Archives and Records Management Unit within the Property Management Section (see A/63/824, paras. 66-70). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of one P-2 and three national General Service posts.**

Medical Clinic

38. The establishment of a P-4 post of Medical Officer, one national General Service post for a nurse and one national General Service post for an Administrative Clerk is proposed for the Medical Clinic (see A/63/824, paras. 71-75). **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that adequate medical facilities are available locally and regionally for the staff of the Base (see A/62/781/Add.12, para. 26) and therefore does not recommend approval of a P-4 post for a Medical Officer and a national General Service post. However, the Committee recommends approval of the establishment of a national General Service post of nurse in recognition of the increased requirements of the Base staff and Tenant Units, as well as personnel attending training courses at UNLB. The individual would need to possess the appropriate linguistic skills. The Committee further recommends that the current part-time arrangements with three medical professionals and one national General Service clerk be continued.**

Transport Section

39. The proposed staffing for the Transport Section provides for the establishment of one Field Service post for a Transport Training Officer and one national General Service post for a Training Assistant (see A/63/824, paras. 79-82). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the two posts.**

Engineering Section

40. The proposed staffing for the Engineering Section provides for the establishment of two national General Service posts for Engineering Assistants in connection with the upgrading of the electrical network system of the Base (see A/63/824, paras. 87-92). **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of the posts.**

Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology Services

41. The staffing proposal for the Office of the Chief of Communications and Information Technology Services provides for the establishment of a P-4 post of Senior Satellite Communications Engineer and one national General Service post for a Planning and Budget Assistant (see A/63/824, paras. 93-97). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of these two posts.**

Operations Section (former Network Systems Section)

42. The proposed staffing structure of the Operations Section provides for the establishment of a P-4 post of Chief of the Operations Section (see A/63/824, paras. 98-102). As indicated in the budget submission, the proposed Operations Section will replace the former Network Systems Section, which is currently composed of one P-3, six Field Service and seven national General Service posts. The Committee is of the view that the reorganization of the functions of the former Network Systems Section should not, in principle, result in a substantial increase in staff. **The Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the establishment of the P-4 post.**

Campus Support Unit

43. The proposed staffing for the Unit provides for the establishment of four national General Service posts (see A/63/824, paras. 105-108). **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of the four national General Service posts.**

Site B, Valencia

44. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of four international posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 Field Service) and two national General Service for Site B, Valencia (A/63/824, paras. 113-120). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the six posts.** Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that efficiency gains achieved through the establishment of an integrated back-up function in Valencia would be calculated and reported in the next budget submission. **The Committee expects that information in this regard will be reflected in the 2010/11 budget proposals for UNLB and the support account.**

Tenant Units

Integrated Training Service

45. The Secretary-General proposes to redeploy five Professional posts from the Integrated Training Service back to Headquarters in New York (A/63/824, para. 121). These posts consist of one Civilian Training Officer (P-5), two seconded Military Training Officers (P-4 and P-3), and two seconded Police Training Officers

(P-4 and P-3). The Secretary-General indicates that savings achieved to date were limited to the delivery of the civilian predeployment training programme and that therefore the capacity dedicated to supporting Member States will be relocated back to New York in order to realign them with their primary client base. **The Advisory Committee expects that the capacity to provide civilian predeployment training will continue to be used in the most effective way and that efficiency gains will be achieved through delivery of training programmes at UNLB.**

Regional Aviation Safety Office

46. The establishment of one P-4 Aviation Safety Officer is proposed to accommodate the functions of the Chief of the Office (A/63/824, paras. 122 and 123). As indicated in the proposed budget, the Regional Aviation Safety Office was established as a pilot project in 2006 to provide aviation safety oversight to the Base, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The activities of the Office are currently managed by two Regional Aviation Safety Officers. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to assess the activities of the Regional Aviation Safety Office at UNLB and report the outcome of the assessment in the context of his comprehensive report on air operations issues to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session (see also A/63/746, para. 47). The Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General consider the potential role that this Office may have in addressing the overall concern for aviation risk management (see A/63/769, para. 27). Pending the outcome of the assessment, the Committee recommends that no action be taken on the proposed P-4 post.**

Strategic Air Operations Centre

47. The establishment of four international posts (2 P-3 and 2 Field Service) and the conversion to posts of two positions funded under general temporary assistance (1 Field Service and 1 national General Service) is proposed for the Strategic Air Operations Centre (A/63/824, paras. 124-127). The Advisory Committee, in paragraphs 42 to 50 of its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/63/746), provided comments, observations and recommendations on the management of air operations. The Committee notes that the Centre is not yet playing a strategic role in the overall management of the Organization's air assets and expects this matter to be addressed in the context of the comprehensive report on air operation issues requested to be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session. **Therefore, the Committee recommends the establishment of two new posts: one P-3 Aviation Operations Officer and one Aviation Operations Assistant (Field Service). The Committee also recommends that the two positions recommended for conversion continue to be funded under general temporary assistance.**

Engineering Standards and Design Centre

48. The proposed staffing of the Engineering Standards and Design Centre provides for the establishment of two new P-3 posts for a Water/Sanitation Engineer and an Electrical Engineer, and two new national General Service posts to provide the functions of Engineering Assistant and Administrative Assistant. The Secretary-

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General also proposes to convert to posts four positions funded under general temporary assistance: Chief, Engineering Standards and Design Centre (P-4); Engineer (P-3); and two Engineering Assistants (national General Service) (A/63/824, paras. 128-134). **The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of the proposed new posts. The Committee further recommends that the positions of Chief, Engineering Standards and Design Centre (P-4), Engineer (P-3) and two Engineering Assistants (national General Service) continue to be funded under general temporary assistance.**

Geographic Information System Centre

49. The proposed staffing for the Geographic Information System Centre reflects the establishment of four international posts (2 P-3 and 2 P-2), the conversion to posts of six general temporary assistance positions (1 P-3, 1 Field Service and 4 national General Service) and the abolition of one national General Service general temporary assistance position (A/63/824, paras. 135-141). As indicated in the proposed budget, the strengthening of the Centre through conversion of general temporary assistance positions is proposed in line with the long-term plan of the Base. **The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of the four international posts and the proposed conversions of six general temporary assistance positions. It recommends the continuation of the six general temporary assistance positions under the current temporary assistance arrangement.**

Reference Checking Unit

50. The proposed staffing of the Reference Checking Unit provides for the establishment of a national General Service position funded under general temporary assistance and the inward redeployment from the Personnel Section and conversion to posts of six national General Service positions currently funded under general temporary assistance (A/63/824, paras. 142-145). **Pending completion of the comprehensive assessment requested in paragraph 14 above, the Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of a Reference Checking Unit and therefore against the establishment of an additional general temporary assistance position. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the six national General Service positions be retained in the Personnel Section under general temporary assistance.**

Standing Police Capacity

51. The proposed staffing of the Standing Police Capacity provides for the redeployment of 27 posts from United Nations Headquarters (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 14 P-4, 8 P-3 and 2 national General Service) and the establishment of 49 posts (4 P-5, 16 P-4, 26 P-3, 2 Field Service and 1 national General Service) (A/63/824, paras. 146-149). The Advisory Committee considered the issue of the relocation of the Standing Police Capacity to UNLB when it examined the proposed budget for the support account and requested that information be provided to the General Assembly (see A/63/841, para. 81). The Committee notes that the Secretary-General's proposal in respect of the Standing Police Capacity is in line with one of the options recommended by a panel of experts. **The Committee requests that the General Assembly be provided with the requested information so that it can make a decision on the matter. In the meantime, the Committee recommends**

that no action be taken with regard to the proposed establishment of an additional 49 posts for the Standing Police Capacity and that the two options recommended by the Panel of Experts on the Standing Police Capacity be further clarified.

Surface Transport Technical Support Unit

52. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a new Technical Support Unit of the Surface Transport Section through the establishment of one P-4 post of Transport Officer who will serve as Chief of the Unit, one P-3 post of Transport Officer and one Field Service Post of Technical Support Officer. The Secretary-General indicates that the Unit will support the Surface Transport Section in the creation of a culture of excellence within surface transport components of field operations and increase organizational effectiveness; the functions of the Unit would include the development and implementation of a capacity to control, standardize and systematize the methodologies currently used in monitoring manufacturer's warranty issues and factory recalls that have any form of financial or liability implication. The Advisory Committee notes that the presentation does not specify the gains that would be achieved as a result of the establishment of the Unit and its location at UNLB. **The Committee is concerned about possible duplication of functions with other units of UNLB and with certain central functions of the Department of Field Support. The Committee therefore recommends that this issue be revisited in the context of the overall support strategy that the Secretary-General intends to present to the General Assembly. The Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the Technical Support Unit at this stage.**

2. Operational costs

Approved 2008/09	*Proposed 2009/10*	*Variance*
$23 055 200	$32 181 100	$9 125 900

53. The estimated operational requirements for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 represent an increase of $9,125,900, or 39.6 per cent, in comparison with the apportionment for the period 2008/09. Major causes of the higher costs include: an increase of $6,437,500, or 102.2 per cent, under facilities and infrastructure; an increase of $2,429,900, or 43.3 per cent, under information technology; and an increase of $1,759,500, or 34.5 per cent, under communications. The increase is offset in part by reduced requirements of $2,173,200, or 61.2 per cent, under other supplies, services and equipment.

54. The Secretary-General indicates in his proposed budget (A/63/824, annex II, para. 74), that the implementation of the longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB will require a considerable investment in buildings and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure. The proposed budget for the period 2009/10 includes a provision of $7,083,000 for the implementation of various projects provided for under the longer-term perspective. The Advisory Committee points out that while some projects may be rescheduled, pending the presentation by the Secretary-General of his global support strategy (see para. 24 above), the postponement of several construction and electrical works would entail negative consequences for the effective operation of the Base. The

Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the impact of not proceeding with the construction works associated with the UNLB Data Centre operations would lead to a significant reduction in the capacity of UNLB to provide the ICT hosting services that field missions require. According to the Secretariat, currently there is insufficient power for all the equipment utilized to support field missions, and that, therefore, not conducting the proposed upgrade will mean that UNLB will be unable to provide the required ICT services. **The Committee recommends that a provision of $6.1 million be authorized to undertake the necessary construction work and electrical upgrades. This would entail a reduction of $1 million from the provision of $7.1 million proposed under the longer-term perspective.**

V. Other issues

Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

55. In its report on the financial report and audited financial statements for the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/5 (Vol. II)), the Board of Auditors made a number of comments and recommendations on financial and management issues at UNLB, including results-based budgeting, procurement, non-expendable property, strategic deployment stocks, vehicle fleet management and information and communications technology. The Advisory Committee is concerned about the Board's finding that, as a result of the slow movement of the strategic deployment stocks, 14 per cent of such stocks, amounting to $12.1 million, had reached or exceeded half of their life expectancies (ibid., para. 258). **The Committee concurs with the Board's recommendation that UNLB should monitor the status of strategic deployment stocks and report periodically to Headquarters with regard to slow-moving items. In addition, in order to avoid further obsolescence, UNLB should investigate the reasons why some strategic deployment stocks are retained for long periods of time. The Committee trusts that the recommended staffing changes, including the recommended D-2 post for Director of UNLB, would allow the Base to respond in a timely and effective manner to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors.**

VI. Conclusion

56. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is indicated in paragraph 31 of the performance report (A/63/626). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $178,100, as well as the income and adjustments in the amount of $3,031,700, be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly.**

57. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 is indicated in paragraph 173 of the proposed budget (A/63/824). **In order to expedite the submission of the present report to the General Assembly, the consequential reductions that would arise from the Advisory Committee's recommendations will be communicated to the General Assembly by the Chairman of the Committee in her introductory statement.**

Documentation

- General Assembly resolutions 59/299, 60/266, 60/267, 61/277 and 62/231
- Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008: report of the Secretary-General (A/63/626)
- Budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010: report of the Secretary-General (A/63/824 and Corr.1)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/62/781/Add.12)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and report of the Board of Auditors (A/63/746)
- Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/841)

Annex I

Current and projected expenditures for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

(Thousands of United States dollars, rounded.)

	1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009			*Projected to 30 June 2009*				
	Apportionment (1)	*Total expenditure (2)*	*Unencumbered balance (3)=(1)-(2)*	*Projected expenditure 1 April to 30 June 2009 (4)*	*Total expenditure including projected (5)=(2)+(4)*	*Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2009 (6)=(1)-(5)*	*Variance percentage (7)=(6)÷(1)*	*Reasons for variance*
Military and police personnel								
Military observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Military contingents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
United Nations police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Formed police units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Civilian personnel								
International staff	7 235.9	5 723.5	1 512.4	2 040.6	7 764.1	(528.2)	(7.3)	Increased requirements due the higher actual average deployment than the amount provided for in the budgetary estimates after taking the delayed deployment factor into account.
National staff	13 068.6	9 253.4	3 815.2	3 764.7	13 018.1	50.5	0.4	
United Nations Volunteers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
General temporary assistance	2 409.3	1 097.6	1 311.7	788.0	1 885.6	523.7	21.7	Reduced requirements reflect the delayed deployment of personnel.
Subtotal	**22 713.8**	**16 074.5**	**6 639.3**	**6 593.3**	**22 667.8**	**46.0**	**0.2**	
Operational costs								
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Consultants	461.1	120.3	340.8	325.9	446.2	14.9	3.2	
Official travel	923.8	426.1	497.7	456.3	882.4	41.4	4.5	
Facilities and infrastructure	6 300.6	4 520.0	1 780.6	1 761.7	6 355.4	(54.8)	(0.9)	

	1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009			*Projected to 30 June 2009*				
	Apportionment (1)	*Total expenditure (2)*	*Unencumbered balance (3)=(1)-(2)*	*Projected expenditure 1 April to 30 June 2009 (4)*	*Total expenditure including projected (5)=(2)+(4)*	*Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2009 (6)=(1)-(5)*	*Variance percentage (7)=(6)=(1)*	*Reasons for variance*
Ground transportation	752.0	524.2	227.8	188.6	716.8	35.2	4.7	
Air transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Naval transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Communications	5 100.1	4 840.0	260.1	141.6	5 088.1	12.0	0.2	
Information technology	5 616.9	4 848.4	768.5	604.0	5 608.9	8.0	0.1	
Medical	351.8	215.7	136.1	124.6	342.4	9.4	2.7	
Special equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other supplies, services and equipment	3 548.9	2 856.1	692.8	494.9	3 390.7	158.2	4.5	Variance due to savings associated with the outsourced services contract.
Quick-impact projects	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**23 055.2**	**18 350.8**	**4 704.4**	**4 097.7**	**22 831.0**	**224.2**	**1.0**	
Gross requirements	**45 769.0**	**34 425.3**	**11 343.7**	**10 691.1**	**45 498.9**	**270.1**	**0.6**	
Staff assessment income	3 473.4	2 522.8	950.6	943.6	3 466.4	7.0	0.2	
Net requirements	**42 295.6**	**31 902.5**	**10 393.1**	**9 747.5**	**42 032.5**	**263.1**	**0.6**	
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total requirements	**45 769.0**	**34 425.3**	**11 343.7**	**10 691.1**	**45 498.9**	**270.1**	**0.6**	

Annex II

Summary of proposed changes in staffing for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

Office/Section/Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Posts*
Office of Chief Administrative Officer, UNLB			
Reclassifications	1	D-1	Chief Administrative Officer (D-1 to D-2)
New posts	1	D-1	Deputy Director of UNLB
	1	NGS	Administrative Clerk
Redeployments	-1	P-4	Administrative Office (to Supply Section)
	+1	FS	Budget Assistant (from Finance Section)
Security Office			
Redeployments	+1	NGS	Safety Assistant (from Logistics Operations Section)
United Nations Logistics Base Support Services			
Office of the Chief, UNLB Support Services			
Redeployments	+1	NGS	Administrative Assistant (from Property Management Section)
	-1	NGS	Administrative Assistant (to Personnel Section)
Finance Section			
Redeployments	-1	FS	Finance Assistant (to Office of the Director, UNLB)
Personnel Section			
Conversion of GTA positions	1	P-3	Human Resources Officer
	1	NGS	Human Resources Assistant
New GTA positions	2	NGS	Administrative Assistants
Redeployments (GTA positions)	-6	NGS	Recruitment Assistants (to Reference Checking Unit)
	+1	NGS	Administrative Assistant (from UNLB Support Services)
Procurement Section			
New posts	1	P-3	Procurement Officer
	1	NGS	Procurement Assistant
Facilities Management Section			
New posts	1	NGS	Storekeeper
	1	NGS	Supervisor, Regular Maintenance and Quick Response Units
	1	NGS	Receptionist/Mail Clerk
New GTA positions	1	NGS	Administrative Clerk
Conversion of contractual positions	4	NGS	Facilities Management Assistants
Redeployments	-1	P-3	Engineer (to Engineering Section)
	+1	FS	Facilities Management Officer (from Supply Section)
	+2	NGS	Facilities Management Assistants (from Engineering Section)

Office/Section/Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Posts*
Property Management Section			
New posts	1	P-2	Archivist
	1	NGS	Document Management Assistant
	1	NGS	Claims Clerk
	1	NGS	Property Disposal Clerk
Redeployments	-1	NGS	Administrative Assistant (to UNLB Support Services)
Medical Clinic			
New posts	1	P-4	Medical Officer
	1	NGS	Nurse
	1	NGS	Administrative Clerk
Logistics Support Services			
Logistics Operations Section			
Conversion of contractual positions	4	NGS	Receiving and Inspection Clerks
Redeployments	-1	NGS	Safety Assistant (to Security Office)
Transport Section			
New posts	1	FS	Transport Training Officer
	1	NGS	Training Assistant
Conversion of contractual positions	3	NGS	Transport Assistants
Supply Section			
Conversion of contractual positions	2	NGS	Inventory and Supply Assistants
	1	NGS	Supply Assistant
	3	NGS	Storekeepers
Redeployments	+1	P-4	Administrative Officer (from Office of the Director, UNLB)
	-1	FS	Facilities Management Officer (to Facilities Management Section)
Engineering Section			
New posts	1	NGS	Electrical Designer
	1	NGS	Electrical Assistant
Conversion of contractual positions	2	NGS	Storekeepers
Redeployments	+1	P-3	Engineer: from Facilities Management Section
	-2	NGS	Facilities Management Assistants (to Facilities Management Section)
Communications and Information Technology Section			
Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology Section			
New posts	1	P-4	Senior Satellite Communications Engineer
	1	NGS	Planning and Budget Assistant
Conversion of contractual positions	1	NGS	Technical Designer

Office/Section/Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Posts*
Operations Section			
New post	1	P-4	Chief of Operations Section
Conversion of contractual positions	1	NGS	Communications Technician
	1	NGS	Video Conferencing Technician
Redeployments	+1	P-3	Information Systems Officer (from System Support Section)
Systems Section			
Redeployments	-1	P-3	Information Systems Officer (to Operations Section)
Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit			
Redeployments	-1	FS	To Campus Support Unit
	-1	FS	To Technological Infrastructure Unit
	-2	NGS	Computer Information Assistants (to Campus Support Unit)
	-4	NGS	Information Technology Assistants (to Campus Support Unit)
	-4	NGS	Telecommunication Technicians (to Technological Infrastructure Unit)
	-1	NGS	Communications Technician (to Technological Infrastructure Unit)
	-1	NGS	Information Technology Technician (to Technological Infrastructure Unit)
	-1	NGS	Computer Systems Assistant (to Technological Infrastructure Unit)
	-1	NGS	Computer Systems Clerk (to Technological Infrastructure Unit)
	-7	NGS	Storekeepers (to Asset Management Unit)
	-2	NGS	Inventory and Supply Clerks (to Asset Management Unit)
Campus Support Unit			
New posts	2	NGS	Information Technology Technicians
	1	NGS	Information Systems Assistant for Applications Support
	1	NGS	Information Technology Assistant for LAN Support
Conversion of contractual positions	1	NGS	Information Systems Assistant for Applications Support
	1	NGS	Information Technology Assistant for LAN Support
Redeployments	+1	FS	From IMCSAM
	+2	NGS	Computer Information Assistants (from IMCSAM)
	+4	NGS	Information Technology Assistants (from IMCSAM)
Technology Infrastructure Unit			
Conversion of contractual positions	6	NGS	Communications Technicians
	3	NGS	Information Technology Assistants
Redeployments	+1	FS	From IMCSAM
	+4	NGS	Telecommunication Technicians (from IMCSAM)

Office/Section/Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Posts*
	+1	NGS	Communications Technician (from IMCSAM)
	+1	NGS	Information Technology Technician (from IMCSAM)
	+1	NGS	Computer Systems Assistant (from IMCSAM)
	+1	NGS	Computer Systems Clerk (from IMCSAM)
Asset Management Unit			
Conversion of contractual positions	1	NGS	Storekeeper
Redeployments	+7	NGS	Storekeepers (from IMCSAM)
	+2	NGS	Inventory and Supply Clerks (from IMCSAM)
Site B, Valencia			
New posts	1	P-5	Project Manager
	2	P-4	Communications Officers for Operations and Network Support
	1	FS	Communications Officer for Technology Infrastructure
	1	NGS	Senior Administrative Assistant
	1	NGS	Administrative Assistant
Tenant Units			
Integrated Training Service Unit			
Redeployments	-1	P-5	Civilian Training Officer (to United Nations Headquarters)
	-1	P-4	Seconded Military Training Officer (to United Nations Headquarters)
	-1	P-4	Seconded Police Training Officer (to United Nations Headquarters)
	-1	P-3	Seconded Military Training Officer (to United Nations Headquarters)
	-1	P-3	Seconded Police Training Officer (to United Nations Headquarters)
Regional Aviation Safety Office			
New posts	1	P-4	Aviation Safety Officer
Strategic Air Operations Centre			
New posts	2	P-3	Aviation Operations Officers
	2	FS	Aviation Operations Assistants
Conversion of GTA positions	1	FS	Aviation Operations Assistant
	1	NGS	Aviation Operations Assistant
Engineering Standards and Design Centre			
New posts	1	P-3	Water/Sanitation Engineer
	1	P-3	Electrical Engineer
	1	NGS	Administrative Assistant
	1	NGS	Engineering Assistant
Conversion of GTA positions	1	P-4	Chief of Engineering Standards and Design Centre
	1	P-3	Engineer
	2	NGS	Engineering Assistants

Office/Section/Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Posts*
Geographic Information System Centre			
New posts	2	P-3	GIS Officers
	2	P-2	Associate GIS Officers
Conversion of GTA positions	1	P-3	GIS Officer
	1	FS	GIS Administrator
	4	NGS	GIS Assistants
Abolished positions	1	NGS	GIS Assistant
Reference Checking Unit			
Conversion of GTA positions	6	NGS	Recruitment Assistants (redeployed from Personnel Unit)
New GTA positions	1	NGS	Recruitment Assistant
Standing Police Capacity (SPC)			
New posts	4	P-5	SPC Officers
	16	P-4	SPC Officers
	26	P-3	SPC Officers
	2	FS	SPC Officers
	1	NGS	Administrative Assistant
Redeployments	+1	D-1	SPC Officer (from Headquarters)
	+2	P-5	SPC Officers (from Headquarters)
	+14	P-4	SPC Officers (from Headquarters)
	+8	P-3	SPC Officers (from Headquarters)
	+2	NGS	Administrative Assistants (from Headquarters)
Surface Transport Section — Technical Support Unit			
New posts	1	P-4	Chief of Technical and Deployment Support
	1	P-3	Transport Officer
	1	FS	Technical Support Officer

Abbreviations: NGS, national General Service; FS, Field Service; GTA, general temporary assistance; IMCSAM, Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit; SPC, Standing Policy Capacity.

Summary

Total UNLB	*Posts*	*Level*
Approved posts/positions 2008/09	264	1 D-1, 4 P-5, 14 P-4, 17 P-3, 1 P-2, 21 FS, 206 NGS (includes 1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 FS, and 23 NGS on general temporary assistance)
Proposed posts/positions 2009/10	419	1 D-2, 2 D-1, 10 P-5, 49 P-4, 57 P-3, 4 P-2, 28 FS, 268 NGS (includes 12 NGS on general temporary assistance)
Positions abolished	-21	1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 FS, 15 NGS
New posts/positions	**154**	
New posts	96	1 D-1, 5 P-5, 23 P-4, 34 P-3, 3 P-2, 7 FS, 20 NGS
New GTA positions	4	4 NGS
Conversion of GTA positions to posts	20	1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 FS, 14 NGS
Conversion of individual contractors to posts	34	34 NGS
Posts/positions redeployed to United Nations Headquarters	-5	1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3
Posts/positions redeployed from United Nations Headquarters	27	1 D-1, 2 P-5, 14 P-4, 8 P-3, 2 NGS
Posts reclassified	1	1 D-1 to D-2